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TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018 azcentral.com PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

McCain, Flake, other U.S. officials slam Trump's Putin remarks; Republican members of Arizona's House delegation remain mum

'DISGRACEFUL'

President Donald Trump on Monday seemed to accept Russian President Vladimir Putin's denials of meddling in U.S. elections, overlooking U.S. intelligence to the contrary. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

McCain: Trump 'made a conscious choice to defend a tyrant'

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sen. John McCain blasted President Donald Trump's joint news conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday as "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory."

McCain's issued statement was among a number of Republican lawmakers who were condemning Trump's appearance in Helsinki, Finland. There, Trump seemed to accept Putin's denials of meddling in the 2016 U.S. election, overlooking mountains of evidence gathered by U.S. intelligence officials in favor of Russia.

McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Ser-

See MCCAIN, Page 6A

President's comments draw silence from Ariz. GOP House delegation

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez and Ronald J. Hansen
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump's denials that Russia interfered with the 2016 elections drew swift condemnation from U.S. leaders and former intelligence officials, some who warn the president's statements could have dire consequences.

But from the Trump-aligned Republicans of Arizona's congressional delegation — Reps. Andy Biggs, Paul Gosar, Debbie Lesko and David Schweikert — it drew silence.

Despite defiant takedowns issued by Arizona's GOP U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, Republican Rep. Martha McSally, who is running

See GOP, Page 6A

USA TODAY **Analysis:** Longtime U.S. allies get assailed, but Russian leader is given respect. **1B**

Senate hopeful shot mom in 1963

Candidate for state office says it was self-defense

Alison Steinbach Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A big crowd gathered in a Tucson church last week, ready to hear candidates' plans for gun-control legislation from people vying to become lawmakers at the state Capitol.

All was going more or less as expected. Then, it was Bobby Wilson's turn to speak.

Wilson, one of two Republican candidates who attended the July 9 meeting, took the mic and told a story of how he fatally shot a crazed attacker in an act of self-defense while a teenager.

That attacker, it turned out, was his mother.

He said his life story illustrates the importance of having "a good guy there with a gun" rather than gun-control legislation.

"You can pass all the laws you want to in this world, and when you've got somebody out there that wants to harm somebody, they're going to do it if you don't stop them," Wilson told the crowd.

The audience was shocked, as video posted online showed. The crowd, brought together by Moms Demand Action, a nationwide movement against gun violence, burst into boos

See WILSON, Page 5A

Phoenix cheers as NCAA says Final Four will return in 2024

Phoenix knows it will host a fourth Super Bowl and second NCAA Final Four men's basketball championship in 2023 and 2024. The Final Four announcement came on Monday, less than two months after the NFL awarded Super Bowl LVII to Arizona.

"I could not be prouder that the NCAA has selected Phoenix to host another iconic Final Four," Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said in a statement released by ASU. "The Final Four is more than just great games, it's a spectacular opportunity for our statewide tourism industry." **1C**

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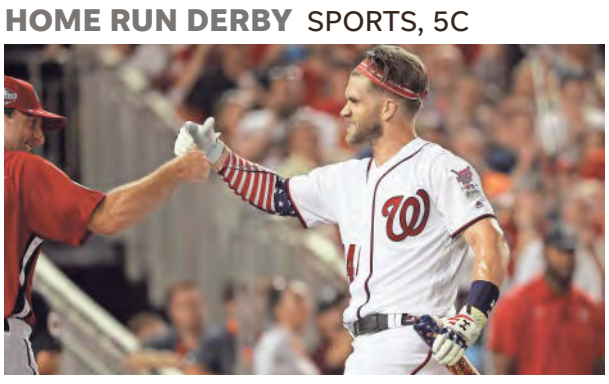

Nationals Bryce Harper celebrates with teammate Max Scherzer as he wins the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday night with an exceptional display of power. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

Glendale charter says it can keep Prop. 301 funds

Heritage Elementary, a Glendale charter school that uses "family values curriculum," is refusing to pay at least 20 teachers — all women — for merit pay they earned in the past academic year, the educators claim. **3A**

Air advisory issued

An ozone high-pollution advisory is in effect today in the Phoenix area. Do your part to help: Use public transportation, ride in a car pool or telecommute.

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